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of oxalic acid upon naphtylamine with that procured by treating a naphthalin-sulphate with cyanide of potassium. M. V. Merz had found the fusing-point of the latter acid to be  $140^{\circ}$ , whilst for the former I had observed the fusing-point  $160^{\circ}$ . M. O. Olshausen has since prepared in my laboratory a quantity of cyanide of naphtyl according to Merz's process. The acid obtained from this cyanide by treatment with an alkali, thrice recrystallized and finally purified by distillation, was likewise found to fuse exactly at  $160^{\circ}$ . Menaphtoxylamide, procured from the same source, exhibited the fusing-point  $203^{\circ}$ , while the compound I had formerly examined fused at  $204^{\circ}$ \*. The identity of the acids obtained by the two processes is thus satisfactorily established.

VI. "Account of some recent Observations on Sun-spots, made at the Kew Observatory." By WARREN DE LA RUE, Esq., F.R.S., BALFOUR STEWART, Esq., F.R.S., and BENJAMIN LOEWY, Esq., F.R.A.S. Received June 2, 1868.

(Abstract.)

The authors, after reviewing briefly the two theories on the nature of sun-spots, which are still subjects of dispute, refer to the stereoscopic views obtained and the results published in their 'Researches on Solar Physics,' and state the reasons which have led them to believe that sun-spots are cavities and at a lower level than the sun's photosphere. Their opinion has been recently strengthened by observations of a sun-spot on the 7th of May, which in disappearing produced in two successive photograms indentations in the west limb.

After proving by the measurements made, which, with the calculations, are appended to their paper, that there can be no doubt about the identity of the heliographical elements of the previously observed spot and the successive indentations, they prove from the established details of the phenomena of sun-spots that such indentations must under all circumstances be very rare occurrences, and state fully the conditions favourable to the recurrence of similar observations, inviting observers to give their particular attention to them.

VII. "The Formation and Early Growth of the Bones of the Human Face." By GEORGE W. CALLENDER, Lecturer on Anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Communicated by JAMES PAGET, F.R.S. Received June 2, 1868.

(Abstract.)

These notes refer to some few points with which we are as yet imper-

\* The fusing-point of this substance is, by misprint (Proc. Roy. Soc. vol. xvi. p. 302), stated to be  $244^{\circ}$ , instead of  $204^{\circ}$ .—A. W. H.